

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



515221

DATE: March 21, 1979

SUBJECT: St. Louis Park, Minnesota, Ground Water Contamination Problem

FROM: James N. Mayka, Staff Engineer, Ground Water Protection Section

TO: File

On March 20, 1979, I contacted Dale Wikre of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) by phone to obtain an update on the St. Louis Park situation. Mr. Wikre is a geologist in the Facilities Section and is the State person most familiar with it.

Specifically, I was interested in the status of any grant applications that St. Louis Park or MPCA may be preparing. Mr. Wikre advised that he had contacted all of EPA's laboratories to discuss the possibility of an R&D grant. He received negative answers from each one. It appears that R&D funding has generally been cut back, and even ongoing projects are being asked to "tighten their belts."

No action has been initiated on a construction grant application to date. The ongoing USGS studies have not progressed to the point where any particular ground water treatment method has been recommended. Apparently, St. Louis Park is content to wait until they have established a definite plan, to seek any Federal funding. MPCA has not encouraged St. Louis Park to seek funding for the planning studies, since MPCA feels this planning does not fall under "facilities planning" as defined in 40 CFR Part 35. However, at such point as an overall plan is outlined, MPCA will probably add the "ground water treatment" portion of the plan to the State construction grant priority list, and seek Federal funding at that time.

Meanwhile, both MPCA and St. Louis Park are lobbying with State legislators in an attempt to secure a special State appropriation to deal with the problem. MPCA has stressed that the State cannot expect USEPA to solve their problems, and that State money is needed to solve such a serious problem.

Mr. Wikre will be keeping me advised of any major actions and decisions concerning the whole situation. He will ensure we will have plenty of advance notice prior to our receiving any type of grant application.